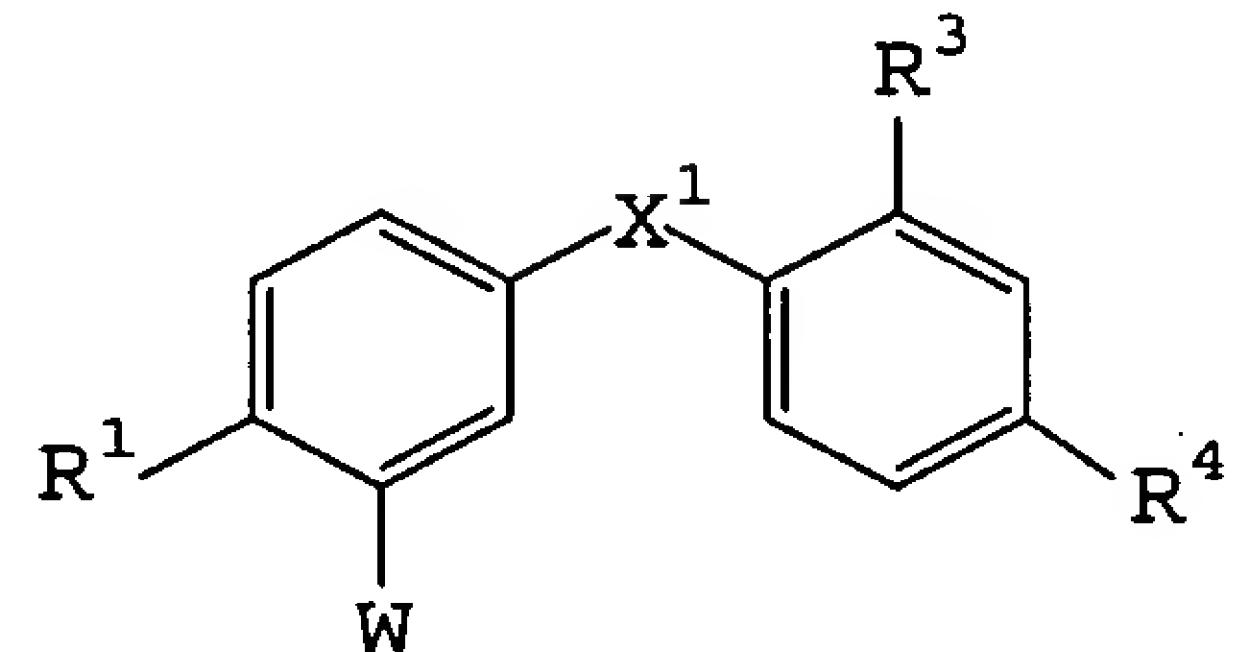


**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein

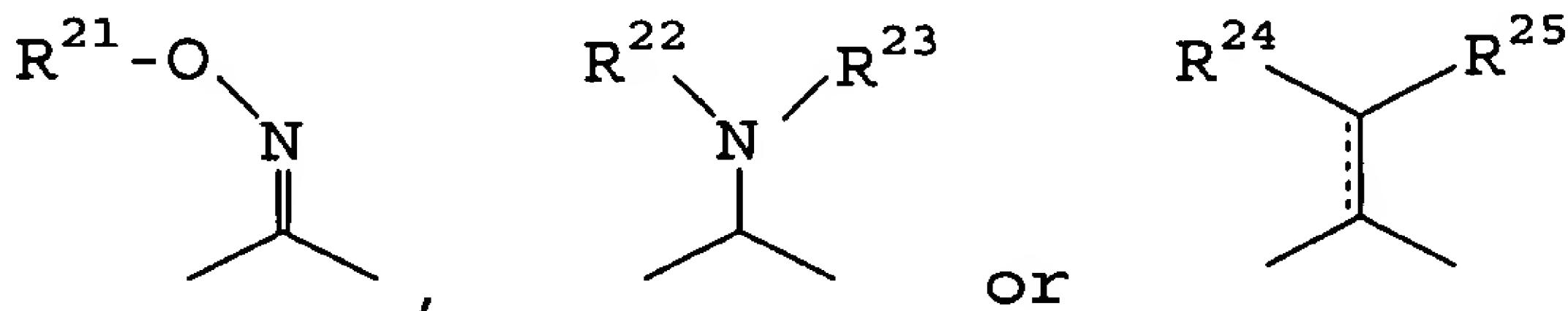
R¹ represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;

R³ represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group, a carbamoyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;

R⁴ represents a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl,

alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;

X<sup>1</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a group of the following formula:



wherein R<sup>21</sup> represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group;

R<sup>22</sup> and R<sup>23</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group; and

R<sup>24</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; the double line of which one line is a broken line denotes a single bond or a double bond; and

W represents -Z-COR<sup>26</sup>, -Z-COOR<sup>2</sup>, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2</sup> or -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2</sup>, wherein Z represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- in which n represents 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when W is -Z-COOR<sup>2</sup>, n is 2 or 3, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH=CH- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-; R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R<sup>26</sup> represents -NHR<sup>27</sup> or -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>28</sup> in which R<sup>27</sup> and R<sup>28</sup> independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

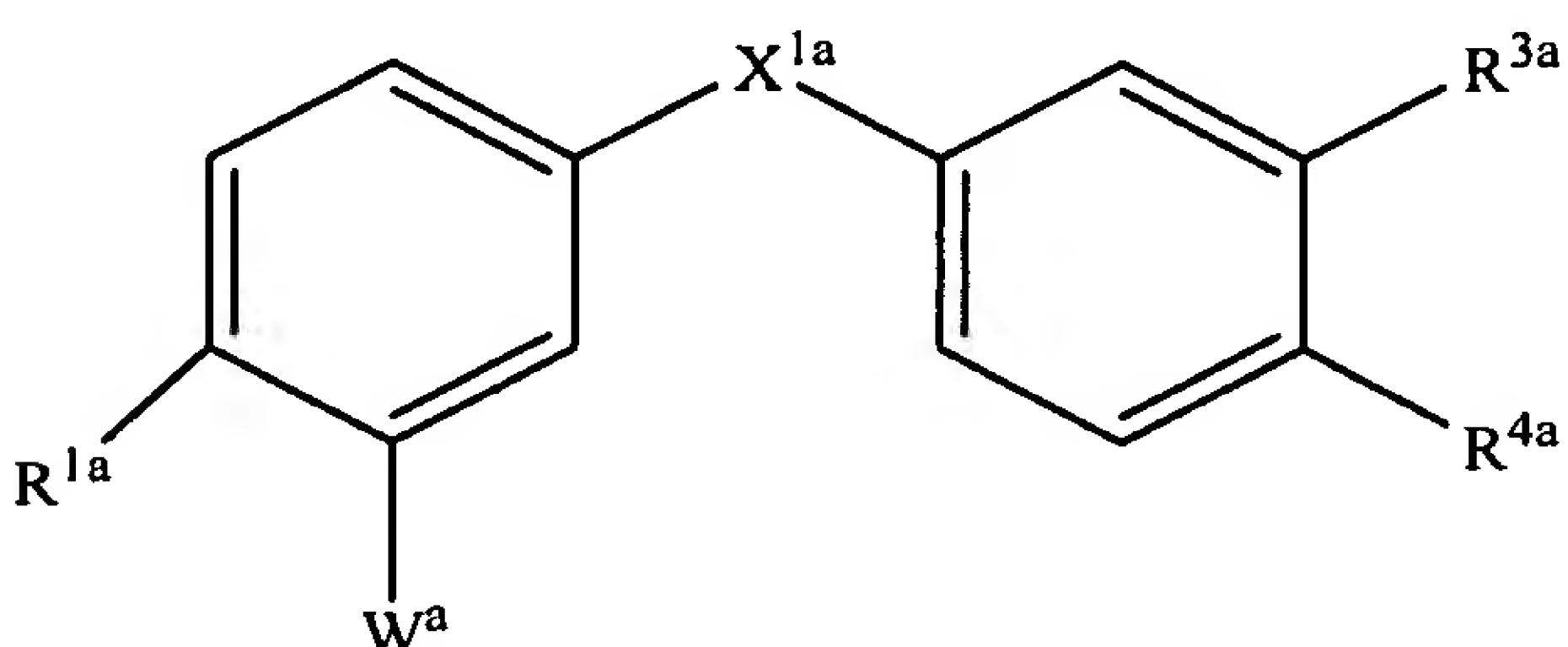
or a salt thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein W is -Z'-COOR<sup>2'</sup>, -Z'-CONH-SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>28'</sup>, -CONH-CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2'</sup> or -CONH-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2'</sup> wherein Z' represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n'</sub>- in which n' is 0, 1 or 2, with the proviso that when W is -Z-COOR<sup>2'</sup>, n is 2 or 3, or -CH=CH-; R<sup>28'</sup> represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; and R<sup>2'</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and X<sup>1</sup> is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-.

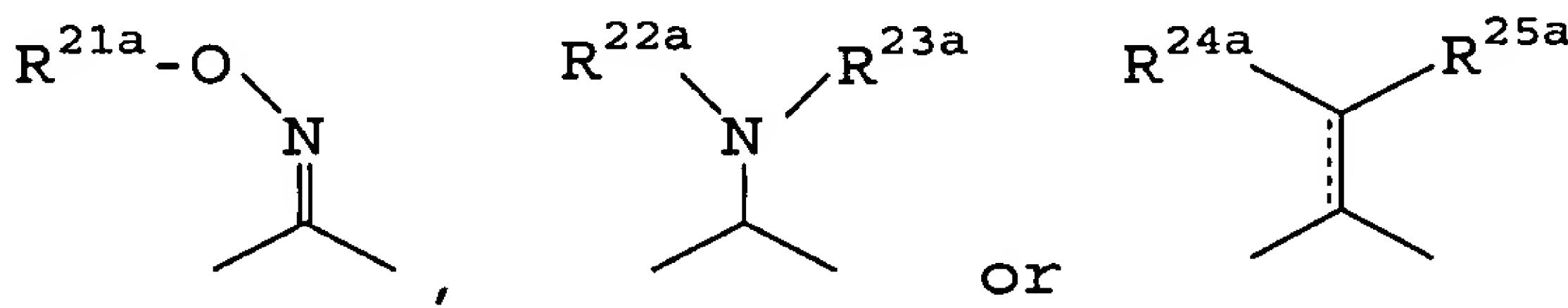
Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 10, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3</sup> is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; and R<sup>4</sup> is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group.

Claims 12-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



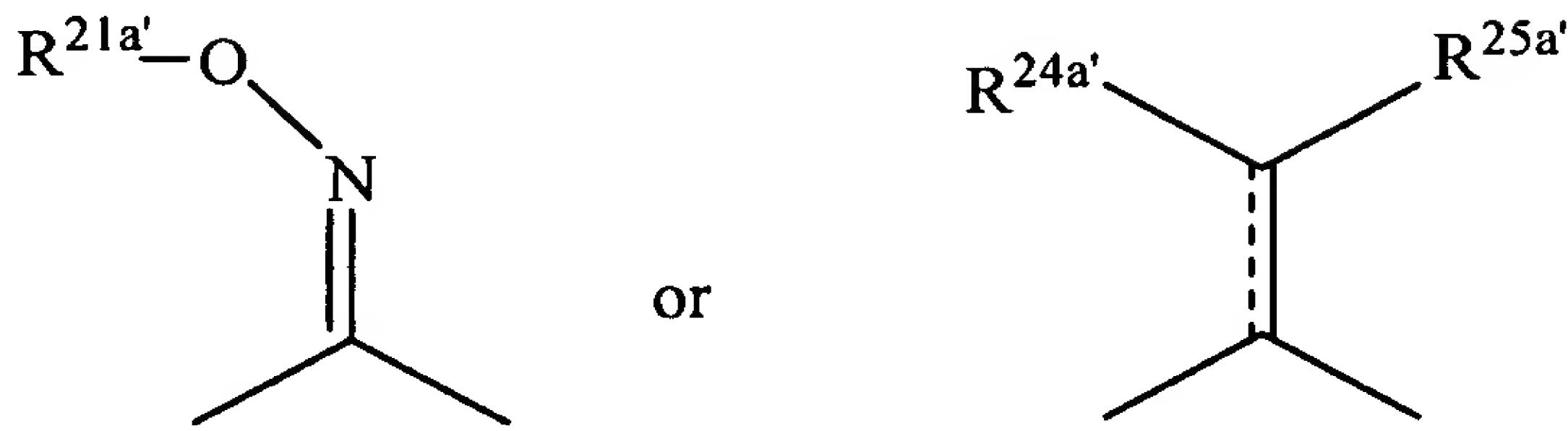
wherein R<sup>1a</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>4a</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X<sup>1a</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a group of the following formula:



wherein R<sup>21a</sup> represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group; R<sup>22a</sup> and R<sup>23a</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group; R<sup>24a</sup> and R<sup>25a</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl,

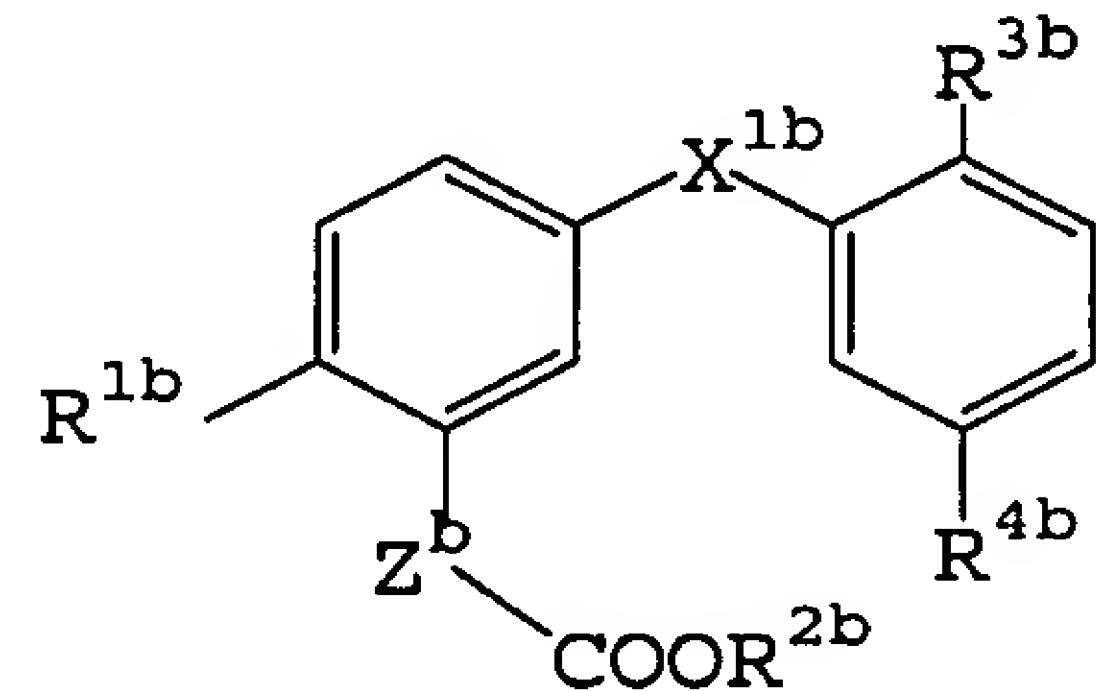
alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; and the double line of which one line is a broken line represents a single bond or a double bond; and W<sup>a</sup> represents -Z<sup>a</sup>-COR<sup>26a</sup>, -Z<sup>a</sup>-COOR<sup>2a</sup>, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a</sup> or -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a</sup> wherein Z<sup>a</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sup>a</sup></sub>, n<sup>a</sup> is 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when W<sup>a</sup> is -Z<sup>a</sup>-COOR<sup>2a</sup>, n<sup>a</sup> can not be 1, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH=CH- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-; R<sup>2a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R<sup>26a</sup> represents -NHR<sup>27a</sup> or -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>28a</sup> in which R<sup>27a</sup> and R<sup>28a</sup> independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group;  
or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 16, wherein R<sup>1a</sup> is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>4a</sup> may be the same or different and represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X<sup>1a</sup> is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a group of the following formula:



wherein R<sup>21a'</sup> represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aralkyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group; R<sup>24a'</sup> and R<sup>25a'</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl or carbamoyl group; and W<sup>a</sup> represents -Z<sup>a'</sup>-COR<sup>26a'</sup>, -Z<sup>a'</sup>-COOR<sup>2a'</sup>, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a'</sup>, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a'</sup>, -CONH-CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a'</sup>, or -CONH-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>2a'</sup> wherein Z<sup>a'</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sup>a'</sup></sub>- in which n<sup>a'</sup> is 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when W<sup>a</sup> is -Z<sup>a'</sup>-COOR<sup>2a'</sup>, n<sup>a'</sup> is 2 or 3, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH=CH- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-; R<sup>2a'</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R<sup>26a'</sup> represents -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>28a'</sup> in which R<sup>28a'</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



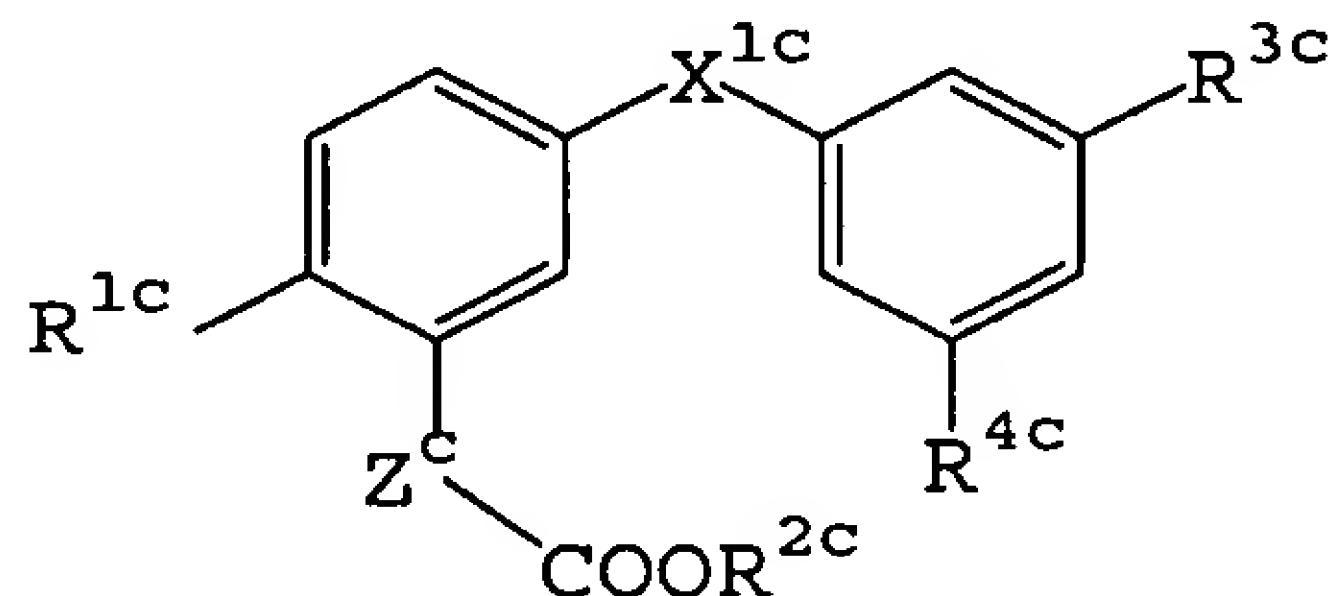
wherein R<sup>1b</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl,

alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2b</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3b</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X<sup>1b</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; and Z<sup>b</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sup>b</sup></sub>-, wherein n<sup>b</sup> represents 2 or 3 or -CH=CH-;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 18, wherein R<sup>1b</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3b</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X<sup>1b</sup> is -C(O)-; and Z<sup>b</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



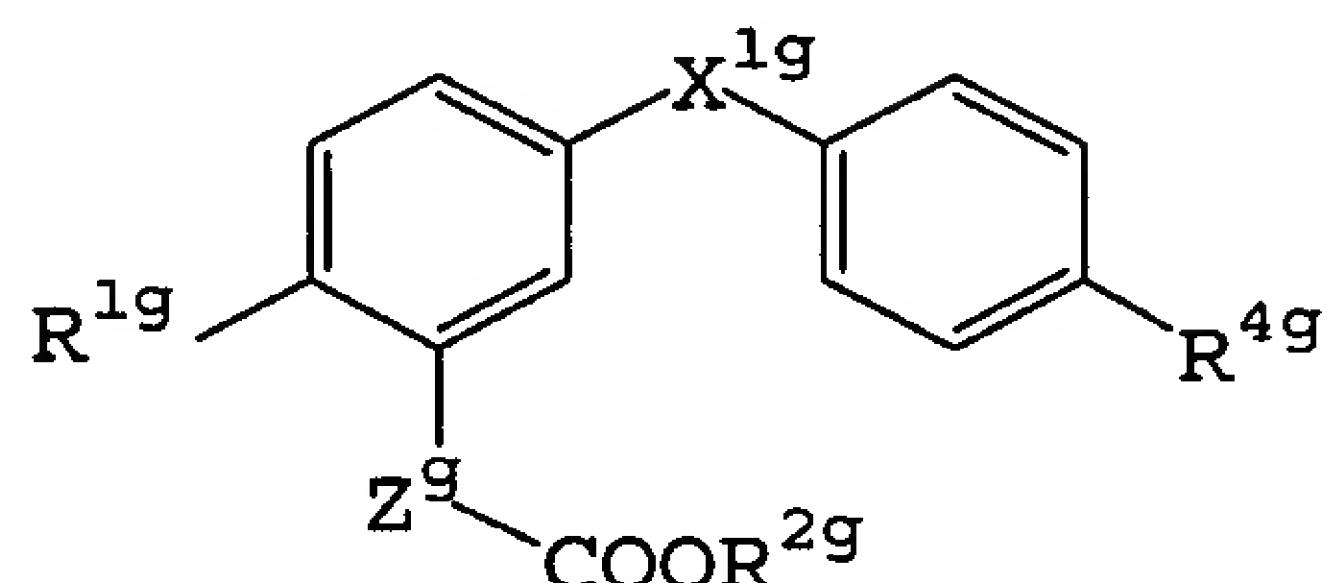
wherein R<sup>1c</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an

unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2c</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3c</sup> and R<sup>4c</sup> may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X<sup>1c</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; and Z<sup>c</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub><sup>c</sup> -, wherein n<sup>c</sup> represents 2 or 3 or -CH=CH-; or a salt thereof.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 20, wherein R<sup>1c</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>2c</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3c</sup> and R<sup>4c</sup> may be the same or different represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X<sup>1c</sup> represents -C(O)-; and Z<sup>c</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-.

Claims 22-27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein  $R^{1g}$  and  $R^{4g}$  may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $X^{1g}$  is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;  $Z^g$  is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sup>g</sup></sub>-, wherein  $n^g$  represents 2 or 3; and  $R^{2g}$  is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  
or a salt thereof.

**Claim 29 (Previously Presented)** A compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein said compound is a compound that has an activity of antagonistically inhibiting the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

**Claim 30 (Canceled)**

**Claim 31 (Previously Presented)** A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises contacting a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9 with an AP-1 binding site.

**Claim 32-34 (Canceled)**

**Claim 35 (Previously Presented)** The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, which antagonistically inhibits the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

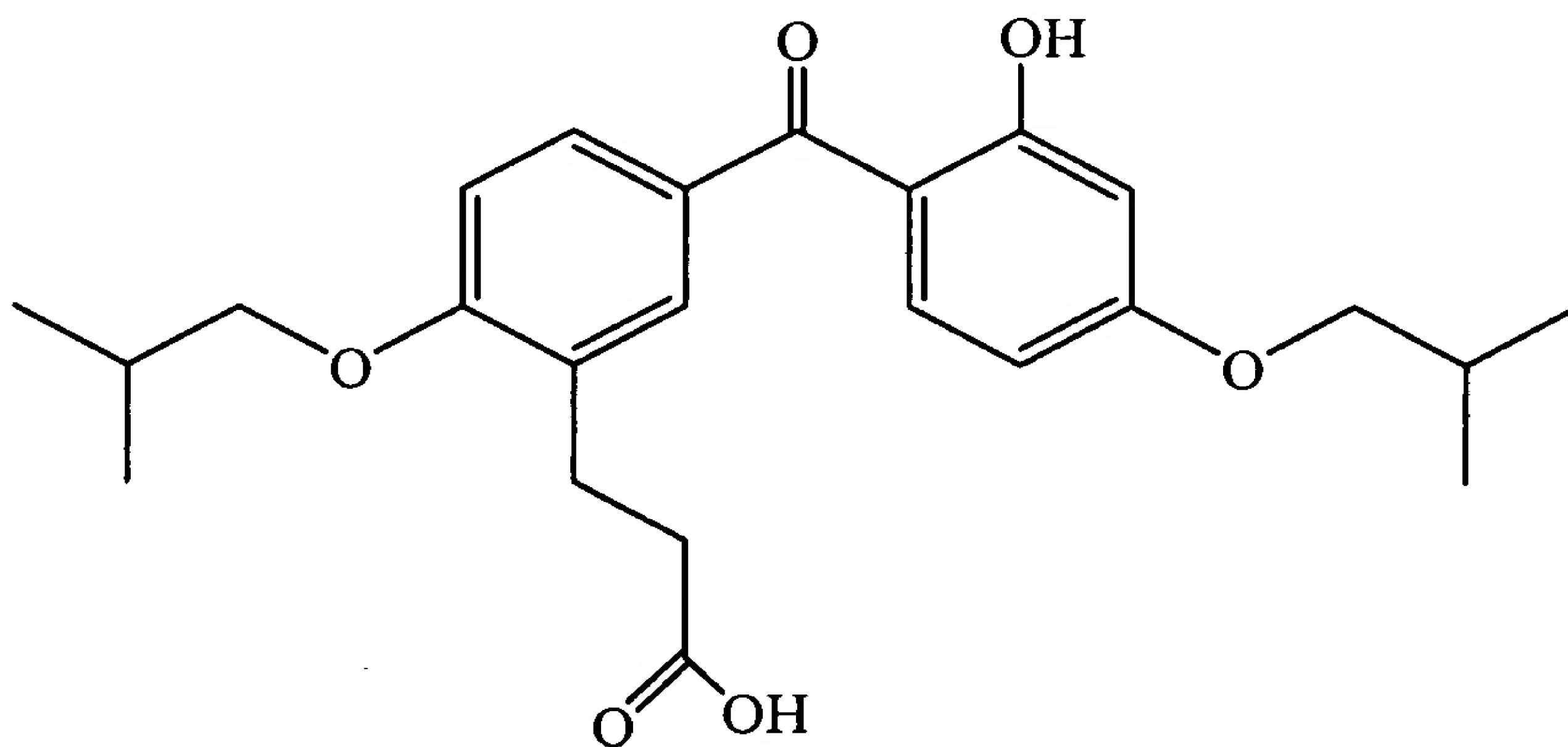
Claim 37 (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 38 (Canceled)

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) An agent for treating an autoimmune disease, which comprises a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

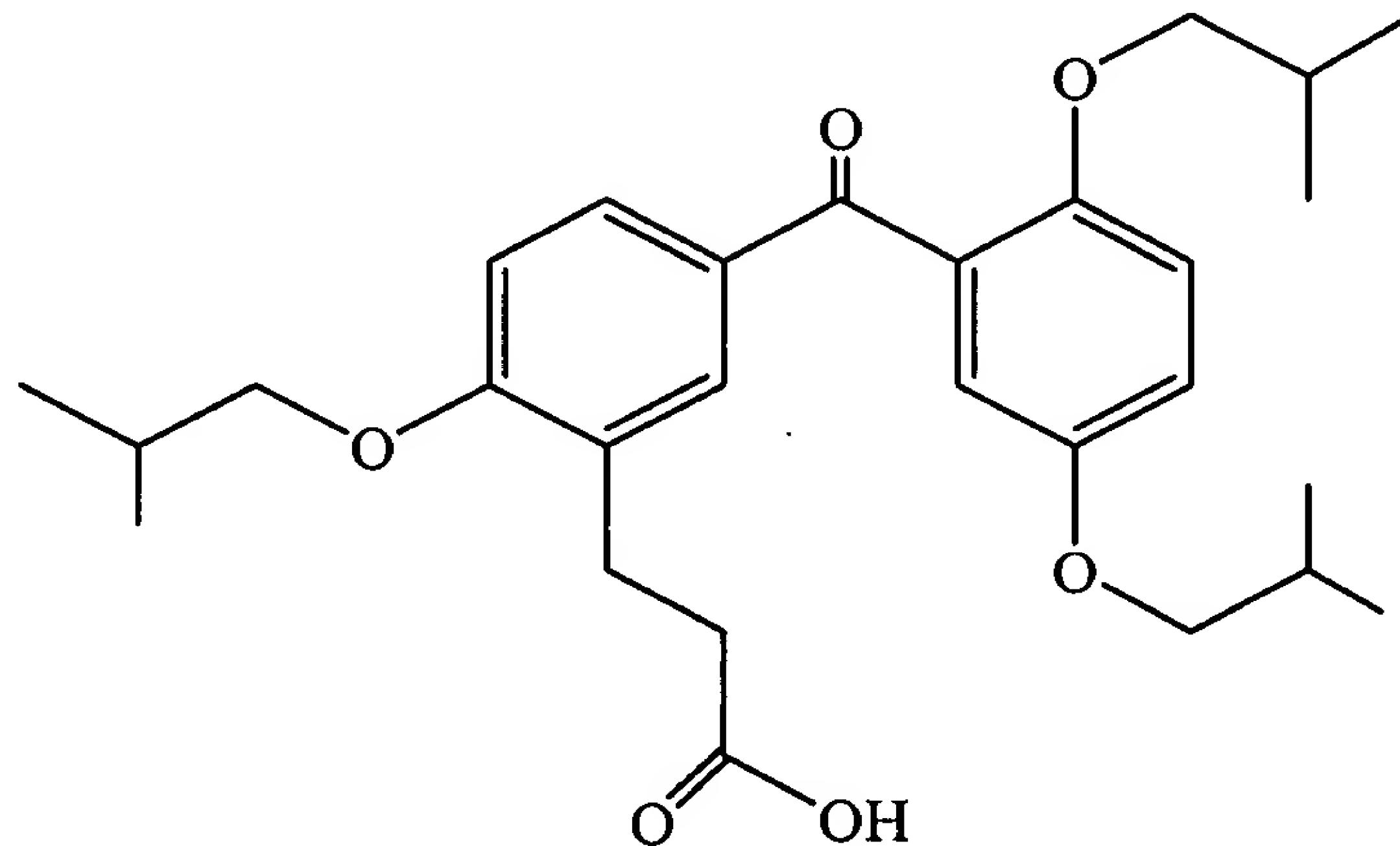
Claim 40. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9 in an amount sufficient to inhibit AP-1 activity.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 9, having the following formula:

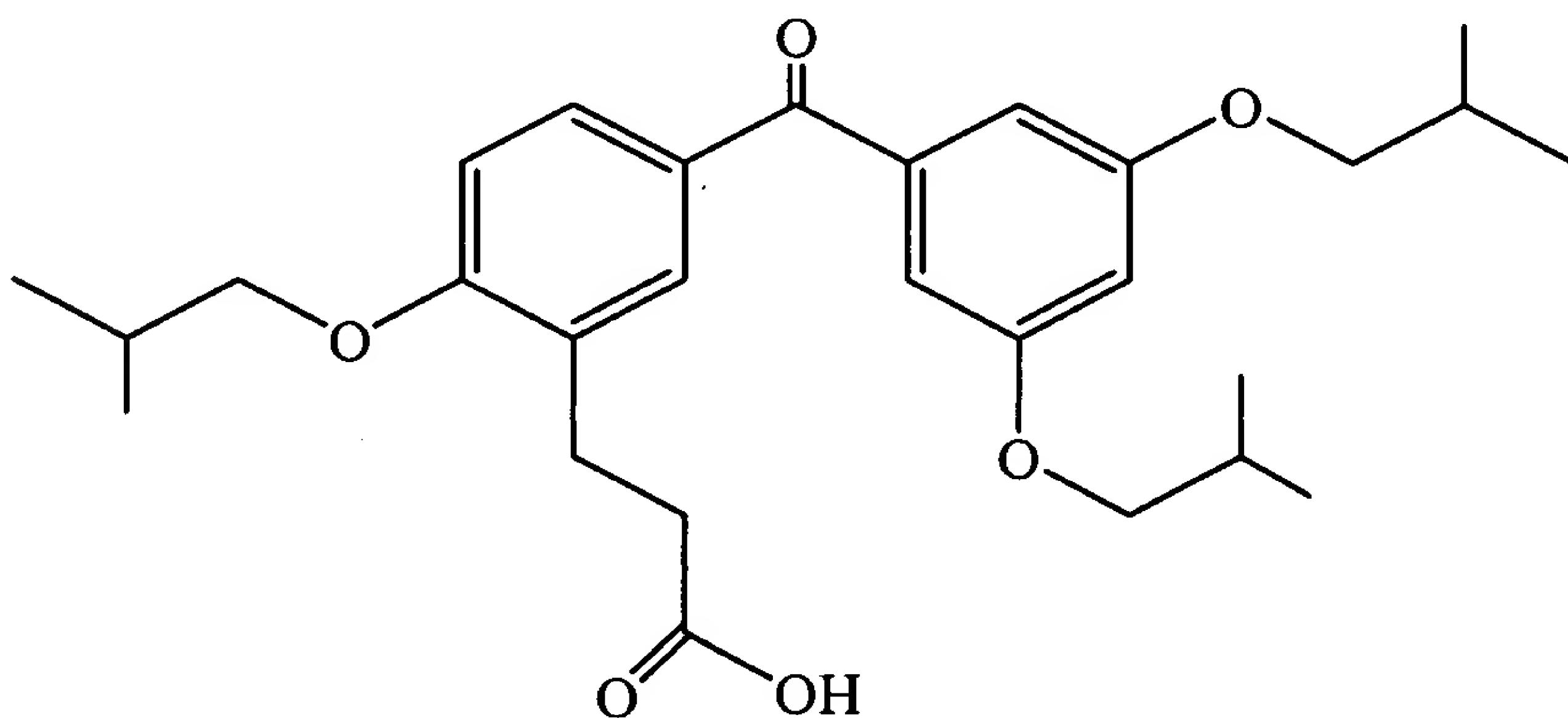


Claims 42-44 (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 18,  
having the formula:

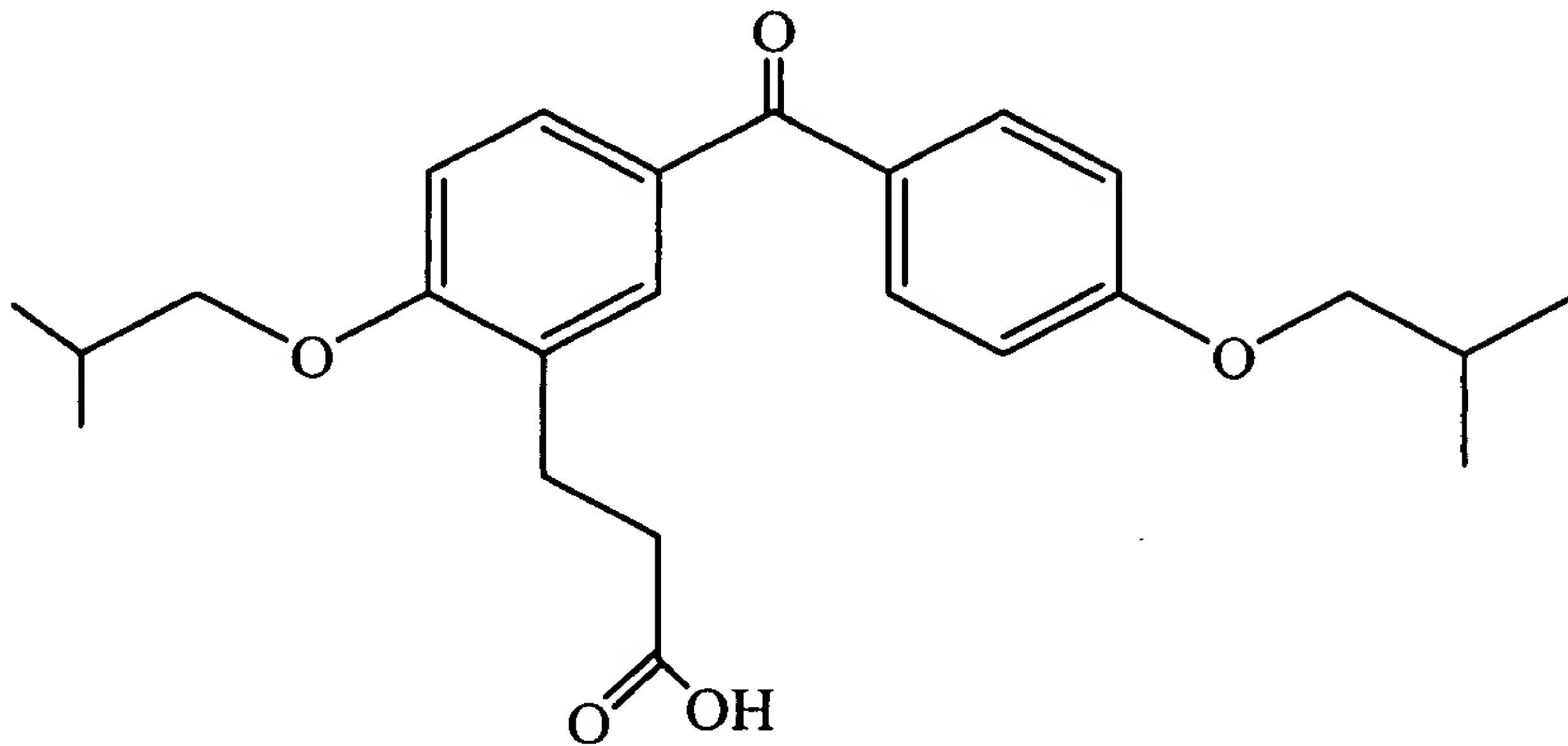


Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 20,  
having the formula:

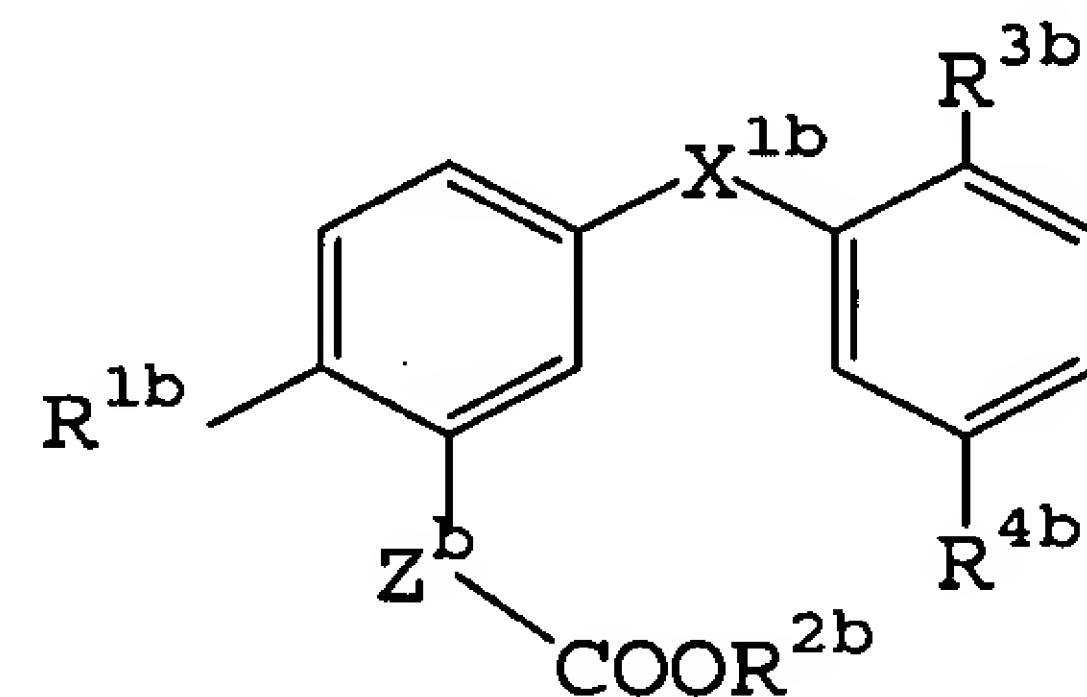


Claims 47-49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 28,  
having the formula:



Claim 51. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:

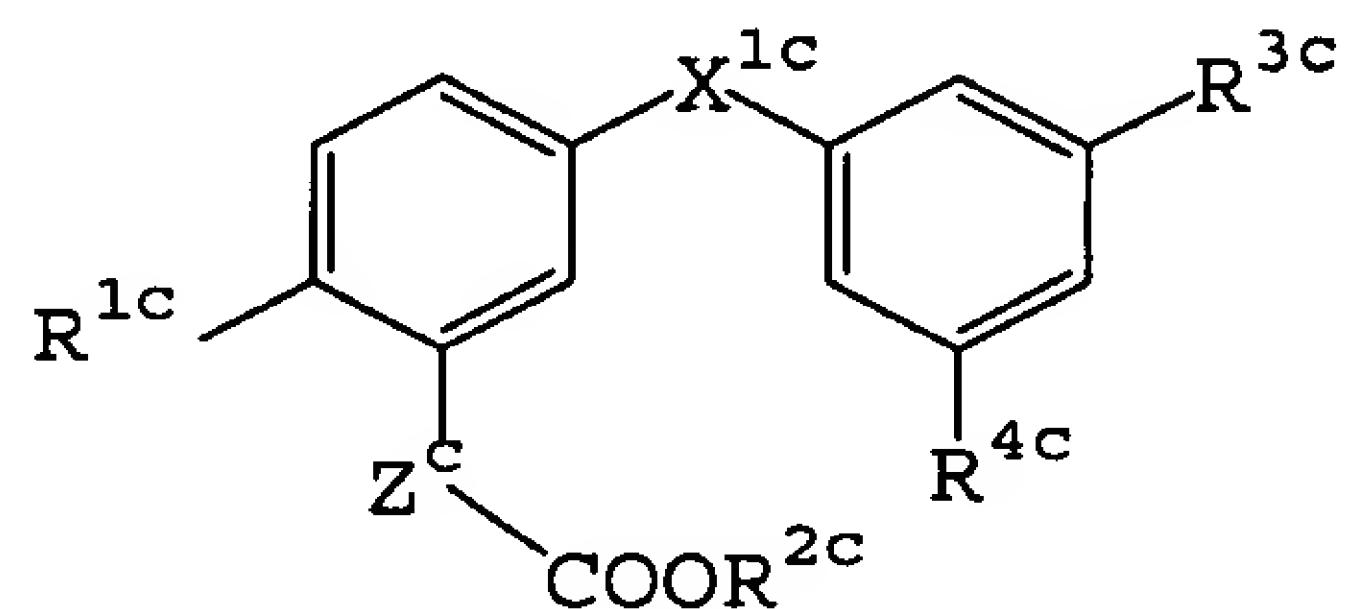


wherein R<sup>1b</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2b</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3b</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X<sup>1b</sup>

represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ; and  $Z^b$  represents  $-(CH_2)_n^b-$  ( $n^b$  represents 2 or 3 or  $-CH=CH-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

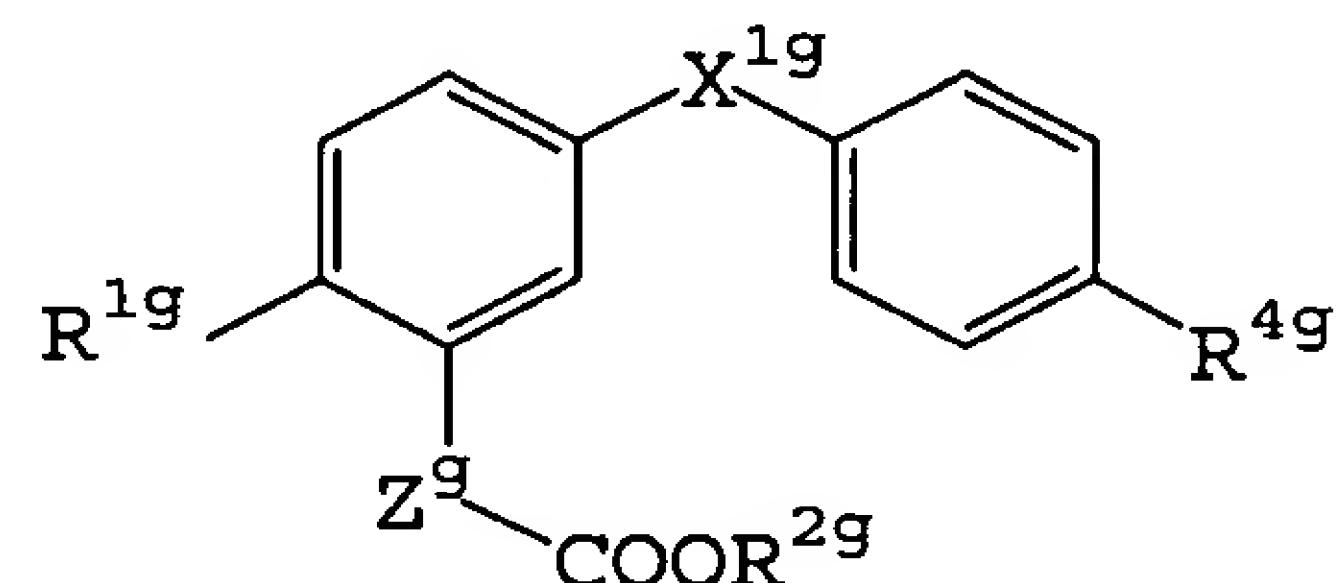
Claim 52. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein  $R^{1c}$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^{2c}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $R^{3c}$  and  $R^{4c}$  may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^{1c}$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ; and  $Z^c$  represents  $-(CH_2)_n^c-$  ( $n^c$  represents 2 or 3) or  $-CH=CH-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 53. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R<sup>1g</sup> is a protected hydroxyl group and R<sup>4g</sup> an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X<sup>1g</sup> is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; Z<sup>g</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sup>g</sup></sub>- (n<sup>g</sup> represents 2 or 3); and R<sup>2g</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;

or a salt thereof.